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News From Our Local Churches - January

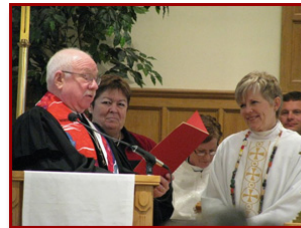


Decatur United Church of Christ Celebrates Affiliation with the UCC!

On Sunday, January 23rd, at the 11:00 service, Decatur United Church of Christ, Decatur, GA, the newest affiliated church in the UCC celebrated its welcome into the UCC. Formerly named Christ Covenant Church, the congregation voted unanimously to adopt its new name several weeks ago as a sign of their new beginning. Conference Minister Tim Downs preached for the occasion, which was also marked by the adult baptism of five new



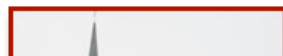
members, and the reception of 10 new members into the church. Established in the early 1990's as a congregation of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Church, the church has had in its history as many as 300 members and as few as 30. While the history of the church has been through ebbs and flows, it has sponsored a new church in Athens, GA, and taken mission trips to Honduras for flood relief. As a part of its commitment to its new denomination, Decatur UCC has pledged 5% of its income to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) Basic Support, and committed to increase this commitment 1% a year until they reach a title of 10%.



In January 2010, the congregation called Glenna Shepherd, their founding pastor to return as pastor. The church has two associate pastors, Jane Acuff and Kathy Burton. In the last year, they have grown from 30 in worship to an average of 70, and list a membership of 120. The church looks to a vital future of significant mission and growth. Glenna has been a leader and resource in the area of church renewal in the Southeast Conference. Follow link to visit [Decatur Church website](#).



Lanett Congregational Christian Church
Hosts a Worship Service of Farewell and
Thanksgiving





Thanks

On January 16th, Lanett Congregational Christian Church, Lanett, AL, hosted a worship service of farewell as they marked the final step of their disaffiliation from the United Church of Christ, by congregational vote taken on October 31, 2010. Wayde Washburn, newly elected as moderator of the East Alabama-West Georgia Association had approached the church asking whether would welcome representatives of the association, for a service of thanksgiving farewell. Wayde led the liturgy. Conference Minister Tim Downs preached for the occasion, expressing gratitude on behalf of the conference for the many gifts, which the church had shared with the United Church of Christ over the course of the 44 years of the life of the Conference, which was established in 1966. He noted that the church had been a part of the United Church of Christ and its predecessor bodies for its entire history. Tim thanked the church for the exceptional leadership it had shared with the UCC, not least, of whom included Millard Fuller the founder of Habitat for Humanity and later the Fuller Center for Housing.

Peace Congregational Church Invites You to Participate

An invite is extended to all churches of the SEC to participate in our **First Annual 5k Peace Power Run** on Saturday, April 2. We would like to have runners and walkers, from all over the SEC, participate in the **"Let's Move Campaign."** This 5K run will take place on a certified course in and around beautiful Pendleton, SC. The race is held in conjunction with Pendleton's Spring Jubilee, an open air, juried art show in Pendleton's historic town square. Click [here](#) for more information on the **Peace Power Run** and [registration information](#).



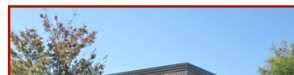
Call for Music Director at Holy Trinity Community Church

There is a vacant part time Music Director position available at Holy Trinity in Nashville. [Click here to view more](#) information about the position and the church.

Pleasant Hill Community UCC Prepares to Move Out of Facility

Having committed to a major renovation and expansion of its facilities, Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN, held its last service in its old sanctuary on Sunday, January 23rd and plans move. They will relocate to a hall in the Uplands Retirement Village while the renovation of the church is completed. Sunday January 30th the church held a groundbreaking service for the new facility.

Pilgrim Congregational UCC,



Birmingham Prepares for Installation of New Pastor, Janet Weidler

Janet Weidler, recently call to serve, as the pastor of Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Birmingham, will be installed at a worship service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 6th. Janet who has come to the Alabama-Tennessee Association from the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference was raised in Birmingham, and looks forward to leading the church in its continuing path to renewal.



Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville in Feasibility Study

Holy Trinity Community UCC Nashville has outgrown its sanctuary. They now have three worship services each Sunday, and are exploring strategies to continue their growth while remaining in the same facility. They have contracted with architects, and are now in the midst of a feasibility study to determine whether they can build a new sanctuary that will seat 400 people, and expand their educational wing to accommodate a growing church school.

Jubilee Circle! United Church of Christ Receives Grant

Jubilee Circle! UCC, a new church start in Columbia, SC, has received a grant for \$8,000 to provide their pastor, Candace Chellew benefits in 2011. This grant was made available in collaboration with the United Church of Christ Pension Boards and Local Church Ministries.

Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson Receives Grant for 2011

Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC had received a grant for \$15,000 for the year 2011 from Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ. The church is in the final phases of preparation to apply for status as a church in full standing in the United Church of Christ. Led by Pastor Susie Smith, Peace Congregational UCC has grown rapidly attracting membership through its courageous and visionary mission focused on environmental priorities, and lifting up values of inclusivity and welcome for all.

Kirkwood UCC, Atlanta, Received Grant for \$15,000

Kirkwood UCC, Atlanta, celebrates not only receiving a grant of \$15,000 for the year 2011 from Local Church Ministries of the UCC, but it has moved into an expanded worship space to accommodate its growth. Kirkwood UCC, led by Pastor Susannah Davis, has been a church, which is generating a number of candidates for ministry for the United Church of Christ inspired by its vision and generativity.

United Congregational Church, UCC, Columbus, GA Leaves Building to Historic Foundation

The United Congregational Church, UCC, in Columbus GA, in the next several weeks will turn its church building over to the Columbus Historic Foundation, which has committed to invest \$80,000 to renovate the building for use as its offices and as a community center. Jim Johnson, the current pastor of the congregation, which has a membership of seven people who worship occasionally in one another's homes and in a Burger King. The Rev. H.W. Elder, who with his family built a total of 24 churches up and down the Chattahoochee valley, founded the church in 1903 with 18 charter members.

It has been difficult for Rev. Johnson, who is an electrical engineer to maintain the building and to protect it from vandalism. Several years ago, the parsonage behind the building was burned down, copper wiring has been stripped out of the church building, and windows have been broken. Conference Minister Tim Downs said, "This is an example of a UCC church imbued with a sense of mission and service at its best. Having served a community faithfully for generations, the church is giving its building to a foundation which in turn is committed to serve the community".

Follow this link for more information on [United Congregational Church](#).

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